

REMARKS

Claims 1-46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yarmey et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,972,591). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The Examiner states that

“Yarmey et al. discloses a color photographic element and corresponding method of processing a the same comprising developing the silver halide element with a color developer, and then bleaching and fixing or bleach/fixing the silver halide element, said photographic element characterized by comprising gelatin, a support bearing at least one dye image forming unit selected from a dye image forming unit comprising at least one red sensitive silver halide emulsion layer having associated therewith a dye-forming coupler, a dye image forming unit comprising at least one green sensitive silver halide emulsion layer having associated therewith a dye-forming coupler, and a dye image forming unit comprising at least one blue sensitive silver halide emulsion layer having associated therewith a dye-forming coupler; and a polymer inclusive of the instant Formula P-1 (see abstract).”

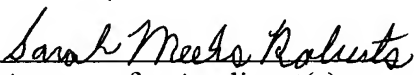
The current invention does utilize a polymer that falls within the structural formula described by Yarmey (See P-1 as noted by the Examiner), however, the polymers described in Yarmey do not meet the molecular weight requirement of the current invention. Yarmey notes at the top of column 6 that the molecular weight of the polymer is generally 400,000 to 1,000,000, and more preferably 600,000 to 1,000,000. In contrast, the current invention requires that the polymer have a molecular weight of less than 300,000. This is a very important difference. As discussed in Yarmey the high molecular weight range was necessary to achieve the desired thickening effect in specific layers of the photographic element during coating. Yarmey utilizes the polymer to increase the viscosity of the gelatin silver halide emulsion as discussed at col. 3, lines 23 to 49. In fact, Yarmey describes the polymer as a thickener. (See abstract).

In contrast, in the current invention, the polymer is utilized to enhance photographic sensitivity to visible light. In the current invention, where high levels of polymers of Formula 1 are desirable in many layers and where thickening of the coating melts is undesirable, the high molecular weight range specified by Yarmey for polymers like those of Formula 1 is specifically not useful to achieve the objects of the present invention. To achieve the objects of the present invention it is highly preferred that the combination of the amount of the invention polymer contained in any layer of the photographic element and the invention polymer molecular weight does not significantly increase the viscosity

of the layer in which it is coated. As noted in the specification, in one embodiment of the current invention the viscosity of the coating layer melt containing the polymer is no more than 100 % higher than the viscosity of the same layer without the polymer. Preferably the viscosity of the layer containing the polymer is no more than 50 % higher than the viscosity of the same layer without the polymer, and most preferably no more than 10 % higher. It should be noted that in the Examples in Yarmey, the viscosity of the coating increases by over 100 %.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that Yarmey does not anticipate the claimed invention. Accordingly, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance, the notice of which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.